

## Message Text

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22

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5703

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SC, FR, FT, SO

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS ON DJIBOUTI INCIDENT,

FEBRUARY 4

REF: USUN 413

SUMMARY: FRENCH HAVE WITHDRAWN REQUEST FOR URGENT MEETING OF SC. SC HELD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, AND AMB MOYNIHAN, AS SC PRESIDENT, MET WITH SOMALI PERMREP. END SUMMARY

1. AT INFORMAL GROUP CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO FORMAL MEETING OF COUNCIL CONCERNING COMOROS, AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 4, FRENCH PERMREP DE GUIRINGAUD OUTLINED INCIDENT AT DJIBOUTI AND REQUESTED COUNCIL TO MEET URGENTLY TO DISCUSS QUESTION. ACCORDING TO DE GUIRINGAUD, THIRTY-ONE SCHOOL CHILDREN HAD BEEN SEIZED AT 7:00 A.M. FEBRUARY 4 BY FOUR COMMANDOS, MEMBERS OF SO-CALLED FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF SOMALI COAST (FLCS) AND WERE TAKEN TO FRONTIER WITH SOMALIA AS HOSTAGES.

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COMMANDOS SAID THAT FREEDOM WOULD NOT BE GRANTED HOSTAGES

UNTIL CERTAIN POLITICAL DEMANDS WERE SATISFIED.

FRENCH REFUSED, AND LATER SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING THE FOUR COMMANDOS. AT THE MOMENT THE BUS WAS SEIZED, HOWEVER, HEAVY ARMS WERE FIRED FROM SOMALIA, CAUSING MANY WOUNDED AMONG FRENCH ARMED FORCES. FRENCH WERE OBLIGED TO RETURN THE FIRE. FRENCH IMMEDIATELY INFORMED SOMALI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE INCIDENT, BUT FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS NOT RECEIVED BY SOMALI GOVT DESPITE HIS REQUEST AND SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN PARIS EVADED CONVOCATION BY THE QUAI. FRANCE CONSIDERS THIS A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION AND ASKS THAT COUNCIL BE SEIZED WITH THE MATTER IN ORDER THAT SOMALIA BE ENJOINED NOT TO CROSS THE BORDER. FIGHTING WAS STILL GOING ON.

SOVIET UNION (MALIK) SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR FRANCE TO DISCUSS QUESTION WITH SOMALI REP HERE IN AN EFFORT TO SETTLE QUESTION BILATERALLY. FRANCE REPLIED THAT SHE HAD NOT EVEN SUCCEEDED IN CONTACTING SOMALI GOVT IN MOGADISCIO. GUYANA, SUPPORTED BY LIBYA, SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, MEET WITH SOMALI REP, LEARN HIS VIEWS, AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL IN INFORMAL GROUP MEETING. FRANCE ACCEPTED THAT SUGGESTION, WITH AGREEMENT THAT AT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, THEN SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 4, TIMING WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR FORMAL MEETING, WHICH MIGHT EVEN BE HELD IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

2. DURING LATE AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 4, FRENCH PERMREP DE GUIRINGAUD INFORMED US THAT A MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM PARIS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE BORDER SINCE THE MORNING AND THAT IN THIS SITUATION, FRANCE WAS NOT INSISTING THAT COUNCIL MEET FEBRUARY 4. FRANCE RESERVED RIGHT TO REQUEST A MEETING DEPENDING UPON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND RETAINED THE RIGHT TO FORWARD TO THE SC PRESIDENT WHATEVER FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE CONCERNING THE INCIDENT.

3. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN ALSO MET PRIVATELY WITH SOMALI PERMREP HUSSEIN. HUSSEIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SC PRESIDENT'S PROMPT ACTION. UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, HE HAD RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM HIS GOVT CONCERNING "THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT." HE HAD TRIED SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS MORNING TO GET IN CONTACT WITH HIS GOVT, BUT HAD FAILED.

4. HUSSEIN HAD SUCCEEDED IN REACHING SOMALI EMBASSY IN PARIS. THAT EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM LAST NIGHT FROM MOGADISCIO, WHICH REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

5. WHEN THE FOUR MEN KIDNAPPED THE THIRTY-ONE STUDENTS, THE BUS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE FRENCH. A TIRE WAS PUNCTURED,

AND THE BUS WAS STOPPED BEFORE CROSSING INTO SOMALI TERRITORY. THIS MORNING, THE FRENCH FORCES, WITH A HELICOPTER AND GROUND TROOPS, ATTACKED THE BUS, AND KILLED THE FOUR, PLUS TWO MEMBERS OF THE SAME "LIBERATION MOVEMENT," WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE FRENCH TO INTERVENE. THOSE TWO WERE KILLED BEFORE THEY REACHED THE BUS. THE FRENCH ALSO ATTACKED THE SOMALI POLICE POST AT LOYADA, KILLING TWO. THUS, EIGHT WERE SHOT DEAD, AND ONE GIRL ALSO WAS KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE.

6. WHAT CAUSED IT ALL? ACCORDING TO HUSSEIN, ON FEBRUARY 1, "PREMIER" ALI ARAF REQUESTED THE FRENCH TO DISMANTLE A 300-HOUSE SHANTYTOWN INHABITED BY 7,000 SOMALIS, AND TO EXPEL THEM. THE FRENCH DID SO, EXPELLING THE SOMALIS ON THE ETHIOPIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. DURING THEIR ACTIVITIES, THE FRENCH USED 75 MM. AND 105 MM. GUNS.

7. THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TOLD HUSSEIN HE HAD LODGED A NOTE OF PROTEST WITH THE FRENCH, IN WHICH HE OBSERVED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF REQUESTING SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, UNLESS A SETTLEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED WITH THE FRENCH. HUSSEIN ADDED THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN SOMALIS WERE "RIGHT" OR "WRONG" -- BUT THEY DID WISH TO FIND UNDERSTANDING.

8. HUSSEIN HOPES TO SPEAK WITH MOGADISCIO AT 0500 FEBRUARY 5. HE WOULD NOT FEEL CONFIDENT PROCEEDING WITHOUT WORD FROM HOME.

9. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN MET INFORMALLY WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS AS GROUP FOLLOWING COMOROS DEBATE. SC PRESIDENT SAID FRANCE HAD WITHDRAWN REQUEST FOR MEETING AND THAT SOMALIA HAD NOT REQUESTED ONE. IN THIS SITUATION, WITHOUT A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUEST FOR A MEETING, HE SUGGESTED ADJOURNING CONSULTATIONS. THIS WAS AGREED TO. SUBSEQUENTLY, AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN TOLD AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN OF RESULTS OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. MOYNIHAN

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